THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The quantum of narcotics seized during 1984 and 1985 from borders of Punjab and Rajasthan is as under:—

Sector	Name of drug seized	Quantity seized	
		1984	1985* (upto 30-11-1985)
		Kg.	Kg.
Punjab	Heroin	101	27
	Opium	3,117	794
	Charas	442	570
	Ganja	2	5
Rajasthan	Heroin	..	371
	Opium	..	2

Note: *Figures provisional.

2. Figures shown above have been rounded off to the nearest Kilogram.

(b) The field formations remain vigilant to check the smuggling of narcotics. Appropriate anti-smuggling measures are taken in consultation with the State Governmen. authorities.

The matter regarding checking of smuggling of narcotics across the Indo-Pak border was also discussed at the second meeting of India-Pakistan Joint Commission held from the 2nd to 4th July, 1985 at New Delhi.

Close co-operation with the international agencies concerned is also maintained to curb smuggling of drugs.

A new Act, namely, "The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985" has been brought into force with effect from 14th November, 1985 which *inter alia* provides for stringent penalties for drug trafficking offences.

Foreign exchange issued under the Foreign Travel Scheme

2962. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of foreign exchange sanctioned under the Foreign Travel Scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what precautions are being taken while issuing foreign exchange under the said Scheme; and

(c) what is the amount of foreign exchange sanctioned under the said Scheme in respect of each country during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The information is given below:—

Year	Foreign exchange released under FTS
1982-83	Rs. 61·37 Crores
1983-84	Rs. 91·92 Crores
1984-85	Not available at present.

(b) Authorised Dealers Full-fledged Money changers have been delegated full powers to sell foreign exchange worth US$, 500|- or its equivalent per person once in two calendar years to eligible travellers wishing to avail themselves of FTS facility against due endorsements made in their passports if and only if the following criteria are satisfied:—

(1) The intending applicant should be a person resident in India.

(2) The visit is proposed to be undertaken for any country in the world except Nepal and Bhutan.

(3) If a valid passport is produced.

(4) If the intending traveller has not availed himself|herself of FTS facility since the commencement of the previous calendar year.

(5) If a valid return ticket booked in India is produced.

(6) The visit under FTS is not in combination with NTS, export promotion and other business grounds and Haj pilgrimage.

The Reserve Bank of India is constantly monitoring the foreign exchange sold by Authorised Dealers|Full-fledged Money Changers under the Scheme.

(c) Data regarding foreign exchange released under FTS is not maintained country-wise.

Investment by non-resident Indians in Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands

2963. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop one of the Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands for the non-resident Indians for investment;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that non-resident Indians have been pressing the Government of India to make such a move; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) Some interest has been shown by some of the Non-resident Indians for Andaman and Nicobar Islands being developed as a free port. The feasibility of such a project has to be evaluated in terms of physical infrastructural facilities that have to be developed as also from the legal and constitutional angle. No decision has yet been taken on the matter.

Promotion of exports from Farm and Plantation sectors

2964. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has advised the State Governmenst to promote exports particularly from the farm and plantation sectors;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken by Orissa and other State Governments for promoting exports from farm and plantation sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At a Conference of State Agriculture Production Commissioners organised by the Commerce Ministry, various issues relating to the generation of exportable surplus of commodities like Basmati Rice, Wheat of internationally acceptable quality,